First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

"Follow Me"

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No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

June 14, 2015 10:00 am

Third Sunday after Pentecost

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Clap Your Hands"** **49 SING** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Tad Wysor

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

***Please rise in body or spirit as you are able**

Announcements Tad Wysor

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Hymn** **"We Are Gathered"** **2 ES**

Call to Worship (Unison) Tad Wysor

We turn to you, God of all worlds, knowing we can depend on you when earthly rulers stumble and fall, when other relationships are strained and broken, when we are faced with difficult challenges. It is good to sing your praises, even when we do not feel like singing. It is good to declare your faithfulness when we have been unfaithful. It is good to give thanks, for when we do, we are reminded of the multitude of blessings we so often take for granted. Lead us in this time of worship. Amen.

– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament Reading Ezekiel 17:22-24 Tad Wysor

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament Reading Mark 4:26-34 Bonnie Meek

Sermon **"Pay it Forward"** Bonnie Meek

***Hymn** **"We Live by Faith and Not by Sight"** **256 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Bonnie Meek

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Traditional Version Bonnie Meek

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Prayer of Sending Forth - "I Believe"

I believe in the equality of all, rich and poor.
I believe in liberty.
I believe in humanity, and that through it
we can create unity.
I believe in the love within each of us,
and in the home, happy and healthy.
I believe in the forgiveness of our sins.
I believe that with divine help we will have the strength
to establish equality in society.
I believe in unity,
the only way to achieve peace, and
I believe that together we can obtain justice.

- Prayer of an Ayacucho Youth Group, Peru from *Let Justice Roll Down*

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) Tad Wysor

God remembers our offerings of genuine thankfulness and regards with favor the sacrifices we make to extend God's realm. We give, not out of compulsion, but with joy. Whatever our age or our circumstances, we have something to give. Let us give thanks as we present our tithes and offereings. Amen.

- Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication *(Unison) Tad Wysor

All that we have, is yours, God. We are privileged to share good news in word and deed. May our common ministry be extended by the time and talents and treasures we invest. We no longer live just for ourselves but for the health and growth of your community. Let our gifts help to increase your community here on earth. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Liberator of All Nations"** **20 ES**

***Benediction** Bonnie Meek

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Our Volunteers	Today: June 14th	Next Sunday: June 21st
Usher	Marty Kleino	Wayne Burling
Preaching	Bonnie Meek	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Tad Wysor	Ivan Harner
Worship Set-up	Margaret Harner	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Desayre Penn	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Margaret Harner	Barbara Garland

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: Welcome Bonnie Meek as our visiting pastor. Bonnie is in the final year of studies at ETS. Bonnie has been very involved in the ONA success of St. Paul's in Warren and at Salem Farmington while she was an intern there. She also served as the Licensed Minister for Pastor Terri Bracy at St. Paul UCC for 4 months last year while she took sabbatical.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address': Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at

https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.
See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!! Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.